

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01  
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/182 W

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R 251425Z APR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8821

UNCLAS GENEVA 06232

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT ACTIVITIES IN 1977 -- ANNUAL REPORT

1. GATT ANNUAL REPORT "GATT ACTIVITIES IN 1977" WILL BE  
PUBLISHED 28 APRIL. DOCUMENT SUMMARIZES 1977 AS AN  
EXCEPTIONALLY ACTIVE AND DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR GATT.  
MAJOR THEMES OF REPORT ARE:

A. TOKYO ROUND ENTERS ITS DECISIVE PHASE-IN SPITE  
OF UNFAVORABLE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES THERE IS EVIDENCE  
OF STRONG RENEWAL OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT BY MAJOR  
GOVERNMENTS TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDE  
EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE AGAINST PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES AND  
GIVE EVIDENCE THAT TRADING NATIONS CAN CONTINUE TO  
COOPERATE IN ADVERSE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

B. OUTLOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN 1978 IS  
PARTICULARLY UNCERTAIN. REPORT POINTS OUT THAT DURING  
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FINAL TWO QUARTERS OF 1977 GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
DECELERATED LEAVING THE OUTLOOK FOR 1978 UNCERTAIN WITH  
DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN PARTICULAR SECTORS.

C. PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES ARE SERIOUS BUT SHOULD  
NOT BE EXAGGERATED. REPORT NOTES THAT THERE HAS BEEN  
NO GENERAL RESORT TO PROTECTIONISM, THAT MOST WORLD TRADE

IS STILL MOVING FREELY, AND THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO RESIST WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS DOMESTIC PRESSURES FOR PROTECTIONISM. REPORT SAYS IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONTINUE TO HOLD FIRM AND THAT THIS NECESSITATES KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY WITH CONTINUOUS CONSULTATION AMONG GOVERNMENTS.

2. COPIES OF REPORT WILL BE POUCHED WASHINGTON FOR NORMAL DISTRIBUTION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014